



Newsletter – June 2007

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Kansas Department of Corrections Victim Services Director Receives Crime Victims' Service Award

Debi Holcomb, Victim Services Director for the Kansas Department of Corrections, was awarded an Attorney General's Crime Victims' Service Award at the 10th Annual Crime Victims' Rights Conference in Wichita on April 12, 2007.

The event was hosted by Governor Kathleen Sebelius and Attorney General Paul Morrison at the Hyatt Regency Hotel & Convention Center in Wichita from April 11-12, 2007. The theme of the conference was "Victims' Rights: Every Victim. Every Time."

Ms. Holcomb received the award, one of three presented by the Attorney General, for outstanding work in victims' advocacy. Accord-

ing to Mr. Morrison, "Too often, victims or survivors would receive little support once an offender was sentenced to prison. Debi changed that."



Attorney General Paul Morrison with awardee KDOC Victim Services Director Debi Holcomb

Other award recipients were Kathleen Inwood, the director of the SOS Child Advocacy Center, for her work in

child advocacy, and Dennis Butler, the Ottawa police chief, for victims' rights work by a law enforcement officer.

The conference's 32 workshops and six keynote presentations included information about services, resources, and legislation affecting crime victims as well as providing participants with valuable networking opportunities.

For more information on the Attorney General's Crime Victims Rights office, please visit the following link: <http://www.ksag.org/content/page/id/40>.

Crime Victim's Rights Week at the Capitol

April 22-28 was National Crime Victim's Rights Week. In honor of crime victims, an information sharing event was held at the State Capitol. Several agencies set up display tables with resources and information for the visiting public. Groups represented included the Kansas Attorney General's Office, De-

partment of Corrections, Highway Patrol, Juvenile Justice Authority, Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, and Social and Rehabilitative Services. Attorney General Paul Morrison launched the event with brief opening remarks.



Kansas Department of Corrections display at the Capitol



Secretary's Message

Corrections professionals are highly committed to achieving the mission of public safety. In this month's newsletter, there are several articles about that level of commitment and how it favorably affects the outcome of corrections work. It begins with the ability to recognize and appreciate the people in our lives who have helped us to reach our ultimate potential.

"Acknowledgment and appreciation of good people is a powerful thing."

Colonel William Seck, Superintendent of the Kansas Highway Patrol, gave the keynote address at this year's Kansas Department of Corrections Employee of the Year luncheon. His acceptance of the invitation to

offer that address was an indication not only of his generosity, but of his commitment to the business of public safety.

Colonel Seck's message was brief but compelling. After sharing a very funny story about his inability to successfully perform the rather routine function of coordinating a visit to the doctor for his wife, he told another story that he referred to as "The Power of Thank You".

The gist of his story was this: he had a teacher many years earlier who had qui-



etly but steadily helped him to become a better person. Colonel Seck ultimately pursued a career in law enforcement and, after quite some time, came to realize that he had never said "thank you" to the person who had made such a huge

impact on him. With great care, he wrote his thank you in the form of a letter and mailed it to his former teacher.

Several days after mailing the letter, Colonel Seck received a phone call from the brother of his former role model. The family had received the letter and was grateful to have it. They were sorry to advise, however, that its intended recipient, the person who had contributed so much to-

wards shaping Colonel Seck's life, had died only 24 hours before the letter arrived.

In the midst of this tragic situation, Colonel Seck found a lesson. If someone you know enriches your life by the way they live theirs, if they take enough interest and care in your growth to devote their time to you, if their mere outlook on life makes you a better person, let them know it now. Acknowledgment and appreciation of good people is a powerful thing.

My continuing thanks to our committed, hard-working, talented corrections professionals. They have contributed greatly to the success of their colleagues and to the success of the department.

Secretary of Corrections Visits Wichita Eagle Editorial Board

On April 18, Secretary of Corrections Roger Werholtz visited the Wichita Eagle Editorial Board, which is led by Phillip Brownlee. There were several objectives to the visit. The main one was to share ongoing news about statewide reentry efforts. In addition, the Secretary discussed supporting research and best practices relative to offender management.

On behalf of the department, Secretary Werholtz

noted, "We need to make it our business to share information about what we do with others. The more we interact with the public and the media, the better they will come to understand and appreciate the complexity of corrections work."

New topics addressed regarding reentry included the January, 2007 receipt of a \$4.6 million grant from the JEHT Foundation of New York, the establishment of various program specialists

in support of at-risk offender populations, success rates for the Shawnee County Reentry Program as reported in the 2007 University of Kansas program study, and anticipated future statewide reentry developments.

The meeting was also attended by Southern Region Parole Director Kent Sisson and Sedgwick County Reentry Director Sally Frey. Other members of the Wichita Eagle Editorial

Board in attendance were Mark McCormick and Randy Schofield.

Several days after the meeting, the Eagle printed an editorial by Randy Schofield that ended with a very compelling point, "The state prison system knows how to be tough. It must also get smart about helping parolees find their niche in society. Helping them succeed is in everyone's interests."



Day at the Capitol—The Annual Employee of the Year Ceremony



Uniformed Employees of the year



Non-uniformed employees of the year

Monday, May 21, 2007 dawned bright and beautiful; the perfect day for a celebration at the Kansas State Capitol. On that day, the Kansas Department of Corrections honored its own. 41 Kansas Department of Corrections uniformed, non-uniformed, and contract staff members and volunteers traveled from all over the state to receive the department's heartfelt thanks for a job well done.

KDOC hosts the annual event as a way to recognize

the individuals who devote their time, energy, and passion to making the Department of Corrections the best state agency it can be. The Capitol ceremony and accompanying activities provide a time for administrators, employees, and their friends and families to join together in acknowledgment of the invaluable service corrections professionals provide.

The statewide award winners in their respective categories were as follows:

Uniformed Employee of the Year

CS II Robert Willesden,
Larned Correctional Mental
Health Facility

Non-Uniformed Employee of the Year

Atanacio "Mani" Manibusan,
Lansing Correctional
Facility

Contract Employee of the Year

Tisha Phares, El Dorado
Correctional Facility

Volunteer of the Year

Sharon Highberger, Topeka
Correctional Facility

Nominees and their friends and family members began the day with a luncheon at Topeka Correctional Facility and ended it at the Capitol by taking photographs with Governor Kathleen Sebelius.



Volunteers of the year



Contract employees of the year



Executive Director of Kansas Reentry Policy Council Receives National Award



Marilyn Scafe, Executive Director of the Kansas Reentry Policy Council

In early April, Marilyn Scafe, Executive Director of the Kansas Reentry Policy Council was awarded the Vincent O' Leary Award by the Association of Paroling Authorities International (APAI). The award is given to an APAI member who has made significant contributions to APAI. That person must also have demon-

strated vision, leadership and commitment to the parole profession.

Ms. Scafe began her corrections career in 1975 as a probation and parole officer with the Missouri Department of Corrections in Kansas City, Missouri. Over the next 30 years, she served the field of correc-

tions as a volunteer to the parole office, Executive Director of an offender program under the Kansas City Crime Commission, and 12 years on the Kansas Parole Board – 11 of which she was the Parole Board Chair. In 2007, she was appointed Executive Director of the Reentry Policy Council.

Kansas Department of Corrections Signs Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Army

On March 6, 2007, Secretary of Corrections Roger Werholtz, and United States Army officials signed a Memorandum of Understanding formalizing the department's partnership in the Army's "Partnership for Youth Success" (PaYs) program.

Via a database that matches identified business staffing needs with specific training

offered by the Army, the PaYs program helps new military recruits identify a prospective post-military career. The Army provides training in the skill sets required by the pre-selected business and six months prior to separation from the Army, the program participants begin coordinating job applications, interviews and pre-employment visits with the business of their choice.

The agreement followed a January, 2007 presentation by U.S. Army Education Specialist Steve Brown to the KDOC System Management Team about the program and its merits, as well as the potential benefits that participation could offer the department.

For more information visit: www.armypays.com.



Secretary Roger Werholtz and Lt. Col. Randy Smith, Battalion Commander, sign the Memorandum of Understanding, while Jan Clausen, Human Resources Director, observes.



Legal News

On May 23, 2007 the Kansas District Court for the Third Judicial District issued its ruling in the *Board of County Commissioners of Riley County v. Roger Werholtz*. The action for judicial review originated over the issue of Kansas Department of Corrections distribution of Community Corrections funding for Riley County.

The county disputed the amount of funds distributed to it by the Kansas Department of Corrections over the course of 7 years, since Fiscal Year 2000.

In its ruling, the court granted the Kansas Department of Corrections Motion to Dismiss the case, noting, "The Court finds as a matter

of law that the Petitioner [Board of County Commissioners of Riley County] failed to exhaust administrative remedies prior to seeking judicial intervention. The Court further finds the Petitioner has failed to state a claim for relief arising out of the award of unexpended grant funds pursuant to K.S.A. 75,103. Finally, the

Court finds that the Petitioner's claim arising out of the award of community correctional services grants pursuant to K.S.A. 75-52,111 are barred for lack of jurisdiction pursuant to K.S.A. 77-613 (d) since the awards in question occurred well over 30 days prior to the filing of this case in January of 2007."



Website Offers New Look for Department

After six months of planning, the Kansas Department of Corrections public website has a new look. The department launched the website in late April after entirely changing its format.

The new site, which is located at: <http://www.dc.state.ks.us/>, contains information about KDOC community services, department contacts, employment, history, facilities, agency news, reentry and risk reduction, and victim services, as well as policy and research briefings. The offender search mechanism (also known as KASPER), a popular consumer and law enforcement tool, continues to be available from the site's main page.

According to David Cook, who developed the new website, as well as the de-

partment's recently redesigned intranet, "As anyone who has done it knows, building a website is a huge

job. It's worth the effort, though, when an agency is able to fulfill its information-sharing goals in a way that is helpful to the public."

The most obvious differences about the site include its readability and ease of use. The development team considered it a priority for

consumers to be able to navigate the site quickly and efficiently.

Much of the information from the previous website has been transferred to the new one. Information will be added on an ongoing basis by the department's newly appointed website content managers who are situated in their respective facilities and departments.

For more information about the Kansas Department of Corrections public website or the Kansas Adult Supervised Population Electronic Repository (KASPER), please contact Frances Breyne, Public Information Officer at 785-296-5873.



The home page of the redesigned KDOC website.

Kansas Department of Corrections Develops Interagency Protocol for Handling Immigration and Customs Enforcement Detainers

The working relationship between the Kansas Department of Corrections and the Department of Homeland Security is not a new one. That relationship was recently formalized, thanks to Beth Mechler and the KDOC compact team, with the development of a new Kansas Department of Corrections Internal Policy and

Procedure, IMPP 05-109.

The IMPP is entitled "Facility & Central Office Processing of Immigration & Customs Enforcement [ICE] Detainers". The objective of the policy is the department's effort, "...to ensure a consistent state-wide approach to providing assistance to ICE in identifying illegal immigrants among the inmate population and in processing ICE detainees."

The policy defines detainees, detainer requests, ICE, Immigration and Customs

Enforcement (ICE) detainees, and the private Kansas Adult Supervised Electronic Repository.

The procedures by which the policy's stated goals will be achieved include the identification, reporting, and tracking of foreign-born inmates, collaborative activities between KDOC and ICE staff, and reporting requirements of release plans

Lansing Correctional Facility staff members were trained on April 2, 2007 and El Dorado Correctional Fa-

cility staff members on April 5, 2007. Representatives from all the facilities attended the training as well as Central Office staff including Classification Manager Dave Riggan, Facilities Management Administrator Liz Rice and Parole Services Manager Chris Rieger.

To view KDOC Internal Management Policy and Procedure 05-109 in its entirety, please access the following link: <http://www.dc.state.ks.us/kdoc-policies/impp/chapter-5/05109.pdf/view>.

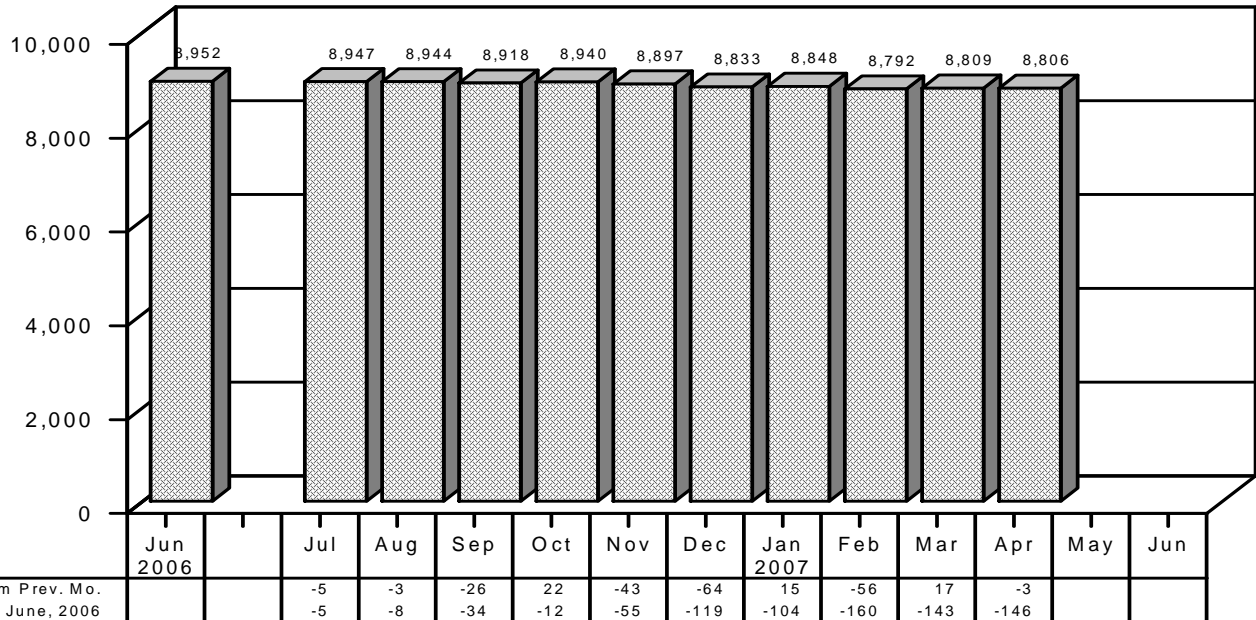




Statistical Graphs

Kansas Department of Corrections
Graphic Highlights -- Monthly Offender Population Report (April 2007)

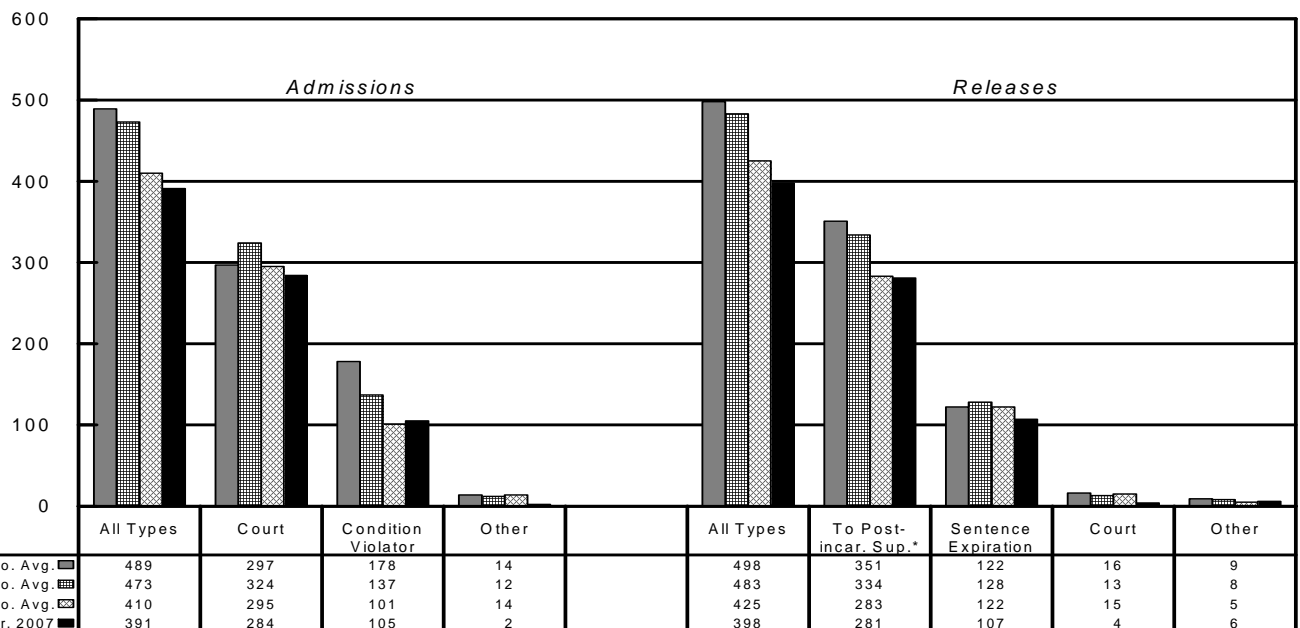
End-of-month Inmate Population: FY 2007 to Date*



*Figures reflect the total inmate population (combined DOC and Non-DOC facility populations)
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Kansas Department of Corrections
Graphic Highlights -- Monthly Offender Population Report (April 2007)

Number of Admission and Release Events Per Month (by Major Category): Comparison of FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007 to Date Monthly Averages with Current Month's Totals



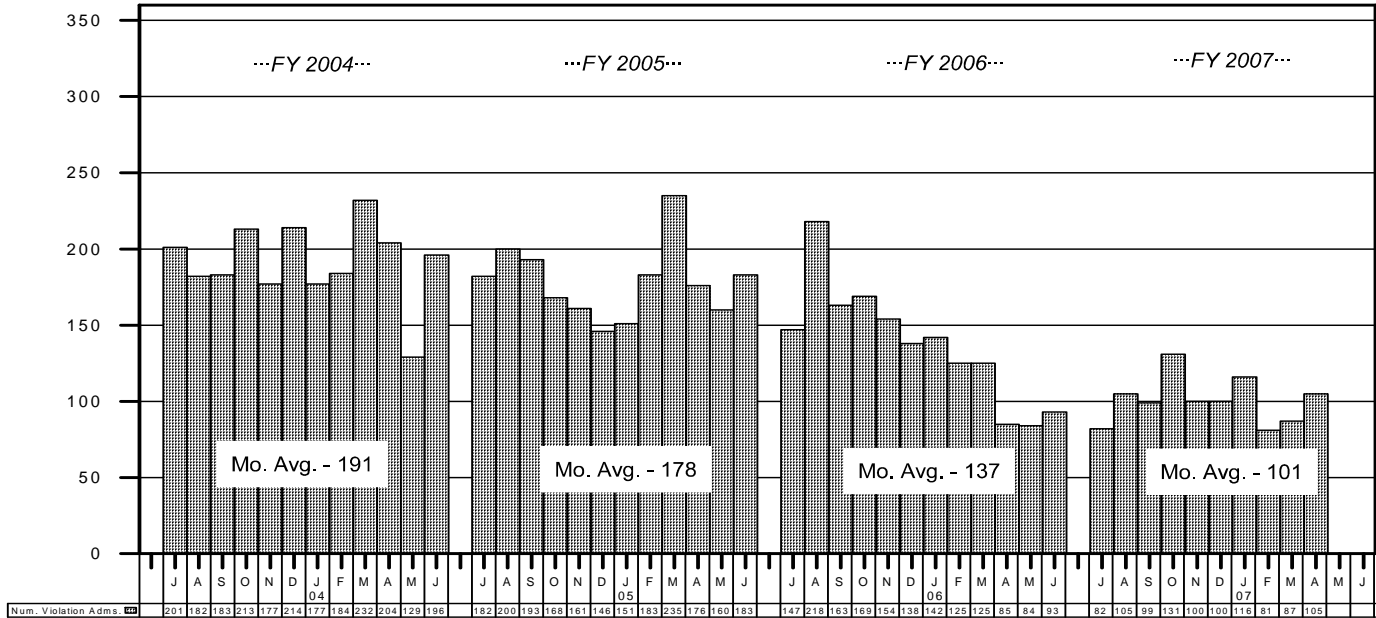
*Includes parole releases by action of the Kansas Parole Board as well as releases to supervision via the provisions of the Kansas Sentencing Guidelines Act of 1993.



Statistical Graphs (continued)

Kansas Department of Corrections
Graphic Highlights -- Monthly Offender Population Report (April 2007)

Number of Return Admissions for Condition Violations by Month: FY 2004 - FY 2007 to Date*

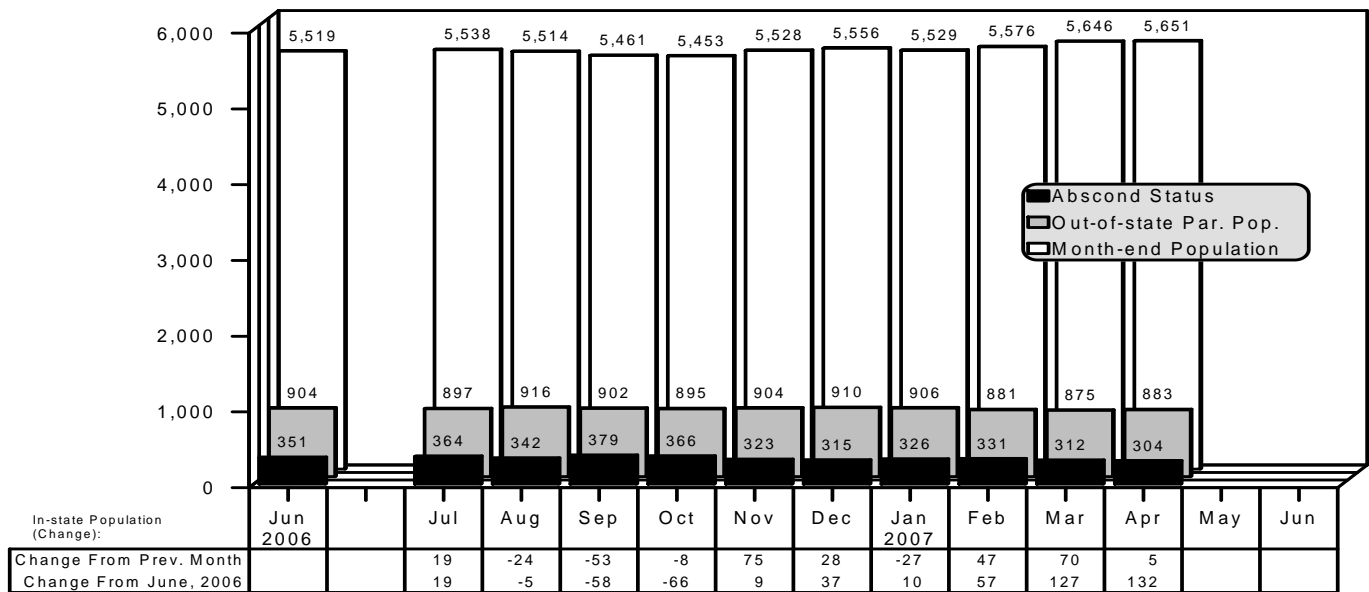


*Total number of admissions for violation of the conditions of release (no new sentence).

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Kansas Department of Corrections
Graphic Highlights -- Monthly Offender Population Report (April 2007)

Components of the End-of-month Population Under Post-incarceration Management: FY 2007 to Date*



*In-state population is comprised of Kansas offenders supervised in Kansas and out-of-state offenders supervised in Kansas. Out-of-state population is comprised of Kansas offenders supervised out-of-state. Those on abscond status have active warrants (whereabouts unknown).

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A safer Kansas through effective
correctional services



The mission of the Kansas Department of Corrections is to contribute to public safety and support victims of crime by exercising safe and effective containment and supervision of inmates, by managing offenders in the community, and by actively encouraging and assisting offenders to become law-abiding citizens.

The Department is responsible for the management and supervision of adult felony offenders sentenced to the Secretary of Corrections by the District Courts of Kansas.

The beginning of the Kansas Department of Corrections can be traced back almost one hundred and forty years to the construction of what was then known as the Kansas State Penitentiary during the presidency of Abraham Lincoln. The Department of Corrections currently operates eight correctional facilities and satellite units located in 12 communities and Parole Offices located in 17 communities.